

Amendment to the Specification:

Page 1, below the title and above "Technical Field", please insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is the United States national phase application of International Application PCT/JP03/03940 filed March 28, 2003.--

Please replace the last paragraph on page 42 and which continues to the top of page 43, with the following amended paragraph:

The Laval nozzle 104 [[4]] is joined with the opening of the compression chamber 101a at the discharge side to establish a communication between the compression chamber 101a and the gas tank 105 when the opening 101c2 opposes the end surface of the revolution body 101b.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 43 and which continues to the top of page 44, with the following amended paragraph:

(1) First, waste plastic powder is fed into the compression chamber 101a communicating with the opening 101c1 through the high-speed switching valve 102c by the feeder 102b of the reactive particle feeder 102. The waste plastic powder is prepared by pulverizing

waste plastics with the pulverizer 102a and fed into the feeder 102b. The waste plastics are transferred to the pulverizer 102a by an inert gas, such as N₂. In addition to waste plastic powder, the reactive particles may comprise coke breeze or powdered coal, and such coke breeze or powdered coal may be fed into the feeder 102b ~~[[2b]]~~, instead of waste plastic powder.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 49 with the following amended paragraph:

A converging tube 204 is provided in the pressure space P in the cylinder 202 ~~[[201]]~~. The converging tube 204 extends to the outside of the cylinder 202 through one 202A of the end walls of the cylinder 202. The converging tube 204 has an inlet opening 204A with a larger diameter, and an external portion 204B whose diameter decreases toward the outlet opening outside the cylinder 202. The diameter gradually decreases from the inlet opening 204A to the external portion 204B. The inlet opening 204A is tapered.

Please replace the third and fourth paragraphs on page 51 with the following amended paragraphs:

In FIG.10, high-pressure steam is fed into the pressure space P of the cylinder 202 from the high-pressure steam feeding tube 206 through the valve 206A in open state. The valve 206A is normally open. The high-pressure steam is also fed to the backpressure feeding tube 207 [[207A]] through the valve 207A in open state.

(1) In this state, the pressure space P and backpressure space B of the cylinder 202 [[2]] are filled with the high-pressure steam, and the piston 203 is pressed against the inlet opening 204A of the converging tube 204 by the urge of the coiled spring 205, thus closing the inlet opening 204A (see FIG. 12(A)).